

## Sustainability Council Annual Report 2014-15

*The following items briefly outline the accomplishments related to sustainability, as facilitated actively, undertaken collaboratively, and reported passively by the Chancellor's Sustainability Council.*

### ACADEMICS

- Collaboration between Academic Sustainability Coordinator and Sustainability Coordinator for Operations in ENV 110 "Introduction to Sustainability Studies" (Fall 2014, Spring 2015).
- Sustainability Film & Discussion Series (9th annual in 2014-15).
- Sustainable Shorts Competition (6th annual in 2015).
- Ashby Dialogue "Localization in a Global World."
- Think Tank / Chautauqua on sustainability education at UNCG (April 2014, with Honors College).
- Launched minor in Sustainability Studies (in first year, 12 enrolled).
- The Environmental and Sustainability Studies Program continues to be a high quality program as judged by both enrollment (circa 50 majors, 30 minors) and graduates, who in AY 2014-15 include 9 students: 3 summa cum laude, 3 cum laude, 3 with disciplinary honors, 3 Student Excellence Award Winners, 2 winners (1st & 2nd place) in 2015 Honors Symposium, 1 winner of Spartans of Promise Award, 2 members of Golden Chain, and 1 member of Phi Beta Kappa.

### INSTITUTIONAL ACCOLADES

- STARS Gold for 2014.
- Inclusion in the Princeton Review Green Schools Guide (inaugural appearance).
- Sierra Club "Cool Schools" (71st out of 173).
- GreenMetric World University Sustainability Ranking, 27th out of 360.
- Tree Campus USA 2015 (6th consecutive year).
- Bike Friendly Campus, Bronze (1st campus in state).
- Best Workplace for Commuter, Gold.
- UNCGreen received Excellence in Innovations Award from UNCG Campus Activities & Programs.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Inclusive report regarding Sustainability in UNCG Strategic Planning and Visioning Process.
- Sustainability Council revised operating papers to facilitate involvement and leadership transition.
- Development of Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program and appointment of three SFFs.
- Recruitment and appointment of new Academic Sustainability Coordinator.
- Supported UNCGreen's successful efforts to establish the Green Fund.
- Update to Design and Construction Guidelines to incorporate specific sustainability criteria.
- Sustainability Gift Fund (established 2013 with Annual Giving) has received \$1700+ in donations.

## EVENTS

- Student-led event on diversity & sustainability: “What's Green Got to Do with It?” (November 2014).
- Faculty Workshop on Sustainability in the Curriculum (August 2014).
- Staff Workshop on Sustainability (January 2015).
- Second Annual Buy Green (Purchasing) Expo (March 2015).
- Earth Day event in collaboration with UNCGreen (April 2015).
- Peabody Park Ivy Pull (Peabody Park Preservation Committee) (semesterly).
- Participation in Campus Conservation Nationals (spring 2015).
- Participation in Recyclemania (spring 2015).
- Establishment of new Fossil-Free UNCG student group (spring 2015).

## MAJOR STAFF / COUNCIL MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACCOLADES

- Academic Sustainability Coordinator Dr. Aaron S. Allen and Sustainability Coordinator for Operations Mr. Trey McDonald collaborated with Tracy Dixon (NC State University), and Ged Moody (Appalachian State University) on “Minding the Gap: Connecting Academic & Operational Sustainability,” at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (Portland, October 2014).
- Dr. Allen’s sustainability publications and presentations include: three articles, one encyclopedia entry, a co-authored essay and four section introductions to a volume he co-edited, three invited presentations, two peer-reviewed conference papers, a co-led day-long workshop, and a keynote.
- Sustainability Communication Specialist Mr. Chad Carwein presented at the 2015 Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference and won a competitive grant to attend YSEALI Generation Earth Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- Council member and Environmental & Sustainability Studies Faculty Committee member Dr. Karen Kilcup named Elizabeth Rosenthal Excellence Professor.
- Environmental & Sustainability Studies Faculty Committee member Dr. Bruce Kirchoff received BOG Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Council Member (and member of inaugural class of Sustainability Faculty Fellows) Ms. Sarah Dorsey received the Thomas Berry Award for her career-long achievements in sustainability.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS / THE FUTURE

- Membership proposal for 2015-16.
- How can we improve the embrace of sustainability in the following areas: strategic planning, Housing & Residence Life, athletics, and the management (and transparency of) the endowment?
- Could cross-unit coordination be improved by having a Director of Sustainability at a higher organizational level (cf. Appalachian State, Portland State)?
- What priorities should we have as we go forward?
- Other: Climate Action Plan will be updated (Fall 2015), Clover Project, resources, new Chancellor.